

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 SCEM-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4985

INFO USUN NEW YORK 6635

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE CONCERN ABOUT PETROLEUM PROBLEM

1. JAPANESE POLITICAL COUNSELOR KATO AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR HORIUCHI AT THEIR REQUEST CALLED AT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS PETROLEUM PROBLEM. JAPANESE WERE INTERESTED IN MORE CONCRETE DETAILS CONCERNING POSSIBLE US COUNTER-ACTIONS AGAINST OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES IF EMBARGO CONTINUED AND US PLANS FOR ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY OIL CUTS. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS DRAWING ON SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE. JAPANESE ALSO ASKED WHY ARABS HAD SINGLED OUT JAPAN FOR HARSHER TREATMENT THAN THAT ACCORDED TO EUROPEAN NATIONS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUESTION ABOUT FRANCO-JAPANESE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING PETROLEUM PROBLEM, KATO SAID JAPAN HAD NOT DISCUSSED ITS OWN STATEMENT WITH EC COUNTRIES ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY EC NOVEMBER 6 STATEMENT. HIGH FRENCH OFFICIALS (UNIDENTIFIED) TOLD JAPANESE AMBASSADOR A FEW DAYS AGO THAT RECENT MIDEAST PROBLEMS SHOWED THE IMPORTANCE OF JAPANESE-EC CONSULTATIONS. IF EC AND JAPAN HAD BEEN COOPERATING CLOSELY, "OIL CRISIS MIGHT NOT HAVE
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HAPPENED." NOW JAPANESE SHOULD HAVE DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH ARAB

COUNTRIES AND PUT GREATER DISTANCE BETWEEN ITSELF AND US IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION VIS-A-VIS ARAB COUNTRIES, AS FRANCE HAS DONE. ARAB COUNTRIES HAD FAVORED FRANCE BECAUSE IT HAD CLEARLY SHOWN ITS INDEPENDENCE OF THE US; JAPAN WAS CONSIDERED BY ARABS AS FOLLOWING US LEAD. KATO NOTED CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS VIEW AND FRENCH INSISTENCE THAT JAPAN-EC DOCUMENT ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BE PURELY BILATERAL AS OPPOSED TO JAPANESE PREFERENCE FOR TRILATERAL STATEMENT INCLUDING US. EMBOFFS GAVE USUAL COUNTER-ARGUMENTS TO STANDARD FRENCH POSITION. ANDERSON

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